[*Translation*]

Excise Duty on Cars

6656. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recommended for any reduction in excise duty on passenger cars as a step to overcome the recession in the industry as reported in the Statesman dated March 9, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other suggestions made by the Government to fight the industrial recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Government attention has been drawn to the news item in "The Statesman" dated 9.3.1992. As part of the annual exercise in connection with the Union Budget, the Industry Ministry reviews the indirect taxes structure as applicable to the different sectors under its administrative control. The Government's final decision in such proposals is reflected in the Union Budget. The Budget contains different measures for the healthy growth of the industrial sector and the economy. As announced in the Budget, 1992-93, special excise duty on products was raised from 10% to 15%. Passenger cars have been exempted from this increase as the industry has been passing through a difficult phase.

(c) Measures announced in the Union Budget for 1992-93, such as reduction of duties, elimination of import licensing except for a small Nagative List, reduction in statutory liquidity ratio, reduction in floor level, of interest rates, etc. are designed to improve the health of the industrial sector.

[*English*]

Committee on Mass Transportation in Cities

6657. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of experts on metropolitan transportation has been set up by the Planning Commission to identify alternative modes of mass transportation in cities with a population of one million and above;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted any report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). The Committee of Experts of Metropolitan Transport was set up by the Planning Commission in 1984. The Committee submitted only an interim report in 1985 in respect of six Metropolitan cities of Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabads. The Committee recommended constitution of Apex bodies and inter-Ministerial bodies for looking into urban transport matters and Ministry of Urban Development to be the podal agency. It had also recommended establishment of a Central Metropolitan Transport Fund.

Malpractices in Super Bazar

6658. SHRI JEWAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances of malpractices having taken place and that have come